

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-52 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, previously withdrawn claims 21-32 and 45-52 are canceled, without prejudice, as being directed to a non-elected group. Applicants, of course, reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 21-32 and 45-52 in one or more divisional patent applications. Further, claim 38 is canceled, without prejudice. Claims 33-37 and 39-44 are amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. In addition, claims 33-37 and 39-44 are withdrawn. Claim 20 is amended to correct a clerical error. Claim 1 is the sole pending independent claim. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 are presented to the Examiner for prosecution on the merits.

A. Election of Species

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner has made an election requirement to the following species:

- Species I: Claims 1-20; and
- Species II: Claims 33-44.

Applicants hereby elect Species I. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 read on Species I. As can be clearly seen from the revised dependency structure of the claims, however, all pending claims now depend from independent claim 1. Accordingly, should claim 1 be found to be allowable, it is respectfully requested that all claims depending therefrom be rejoined.

B. Conclusion

Thus, Species I has been elected. If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

Receipt of the initial Office action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE, STERBA & MORSE, P.C.

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Richard A. Stein Reg. No. 43,162

for: Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039

LEE, STERBA & MORSE, P.C.
1101 WILSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 2000
ARLINGTON, VA 22209
703.525.0978 TEL
703.525.4265 FAX



PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.